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Carley et al.

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(54) **PHYSICAL SHIELDING FOR ECG ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In one aspect, a physical shielding system includes one or more shield components to protect a first ECG electrical connection and a second ECG electrical connection from objects. The first ECG electrical connection is formed between a connector of an ECG lead set and an adapter and the second ECG electrical connection is formed between the adapter and an ECG monitor. In another aspect, an ECG adapter system includes an ECG adapter. The ECG adapter includes a first interface configured to directly couple with a connector of an ECG lead set to form a first ECG electrical connection, a second interface configured to directly couple with an ECG monitor to form a second ECG electrical connection and a shield disposed around the adapter that includes a first opening configured to allow the connector to couple with the adapter and to shield the first ECG electrical connection from objects and a second opening configured to allow the ECG monitor to couple with the adapter and to shield the second ECG electrical connection from objects.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

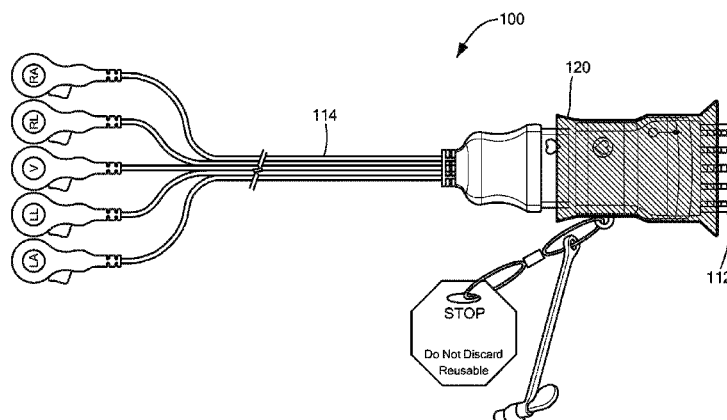
CPC **H01R 13/46** (2013.01); **A61B 5/0402** (2013.01); **A61B 5/04286** (2013.01); **H01R 13/5213** (2013.01); **H01R 31/06** (2013.01); **A61B 2562/18** (2013.01); **A61B 2562/221** (2013.01);

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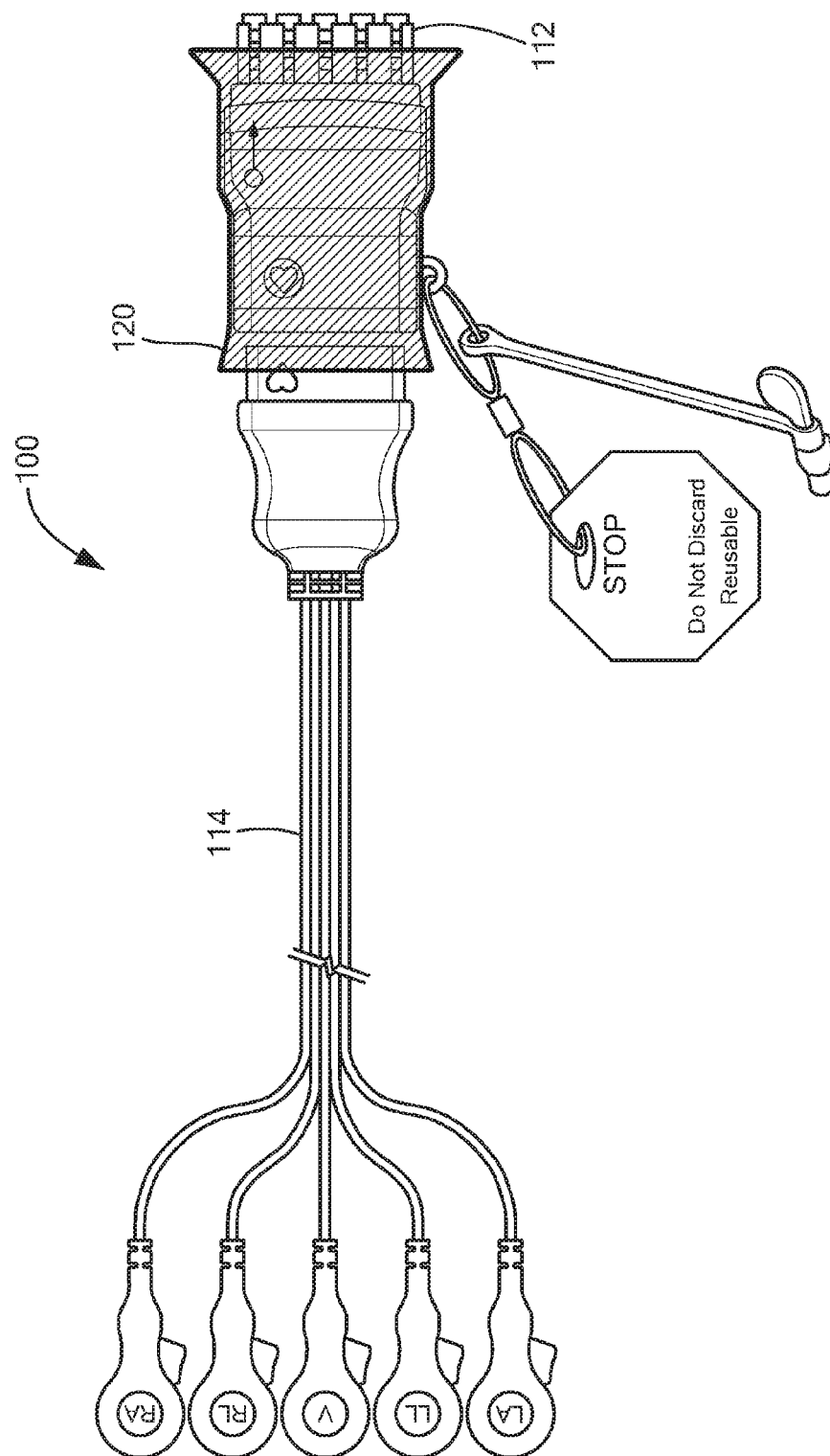
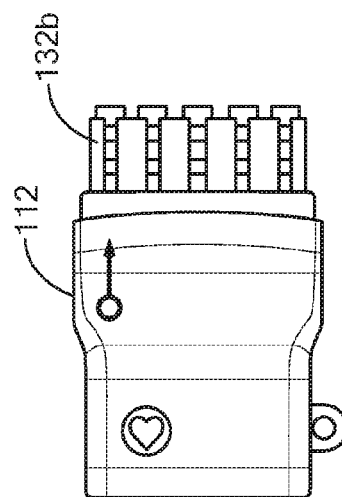
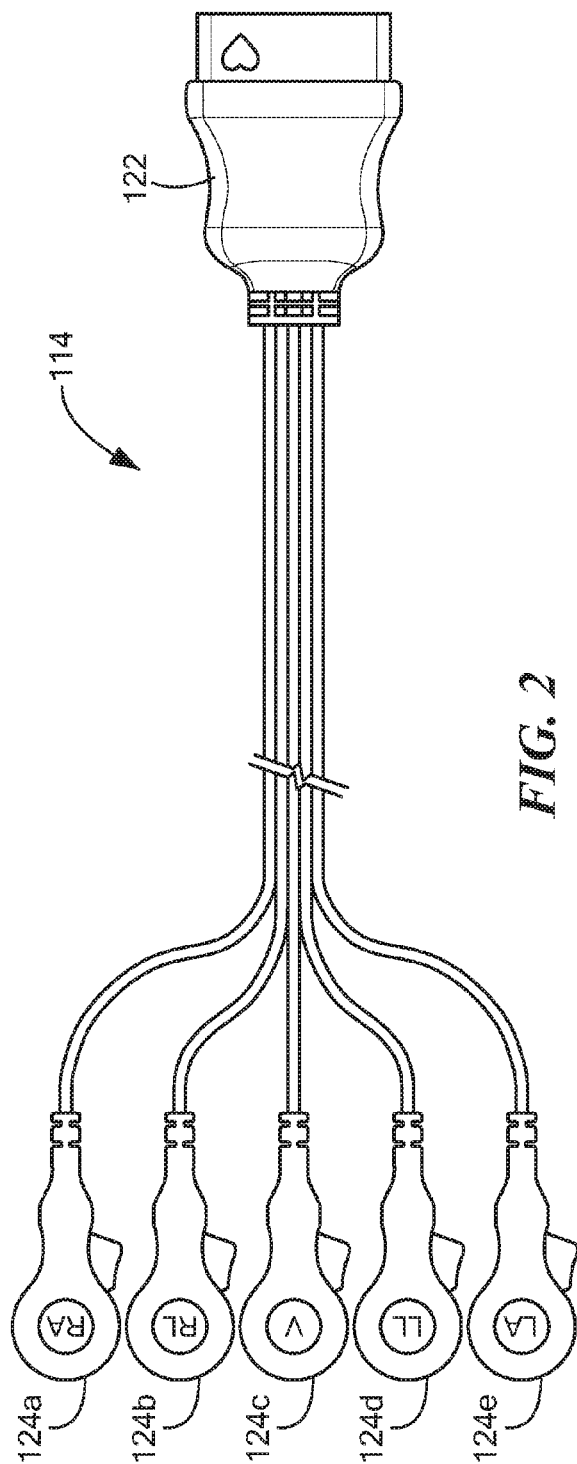


FIG. 1



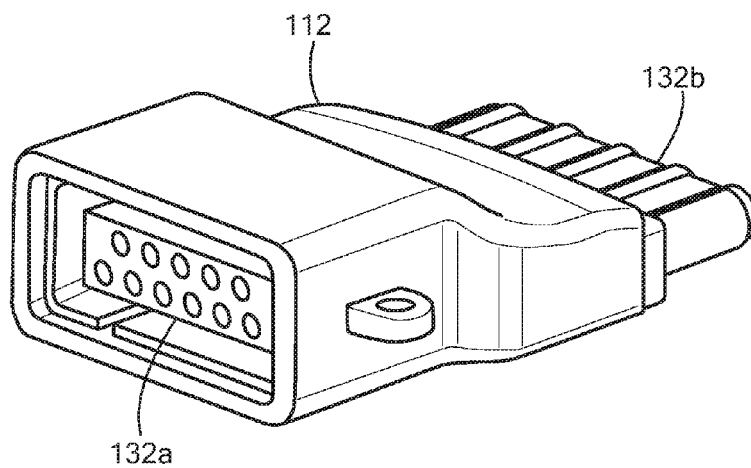


FIG. 4

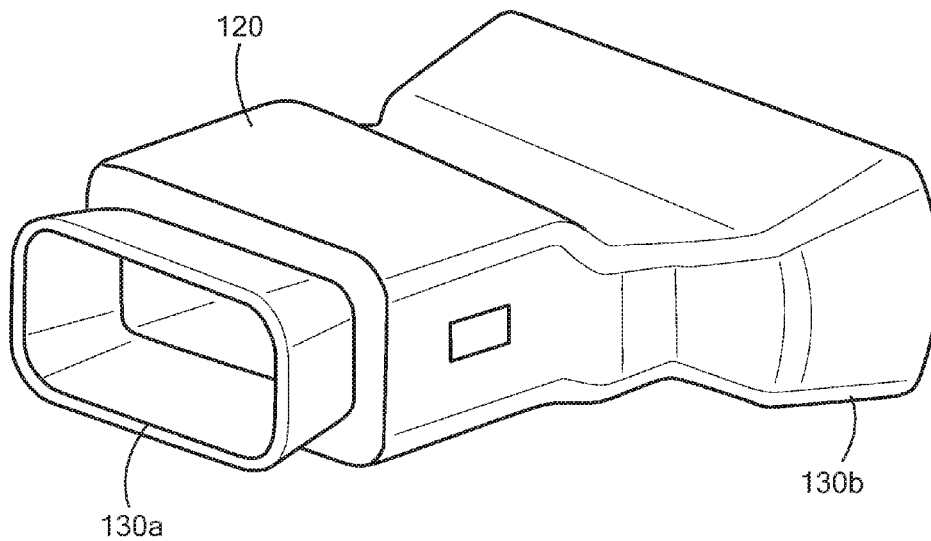


FIG. 5

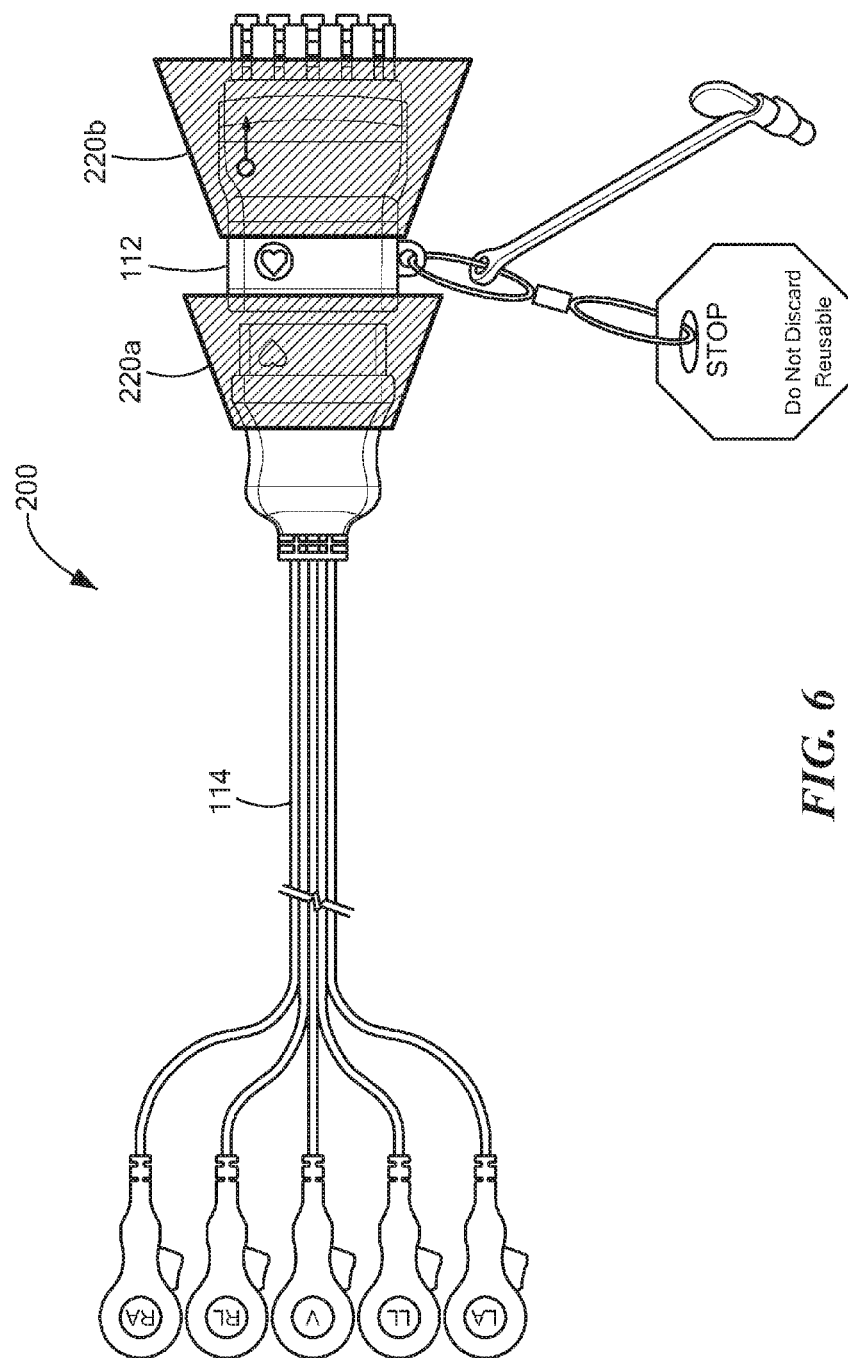


FIG. 6

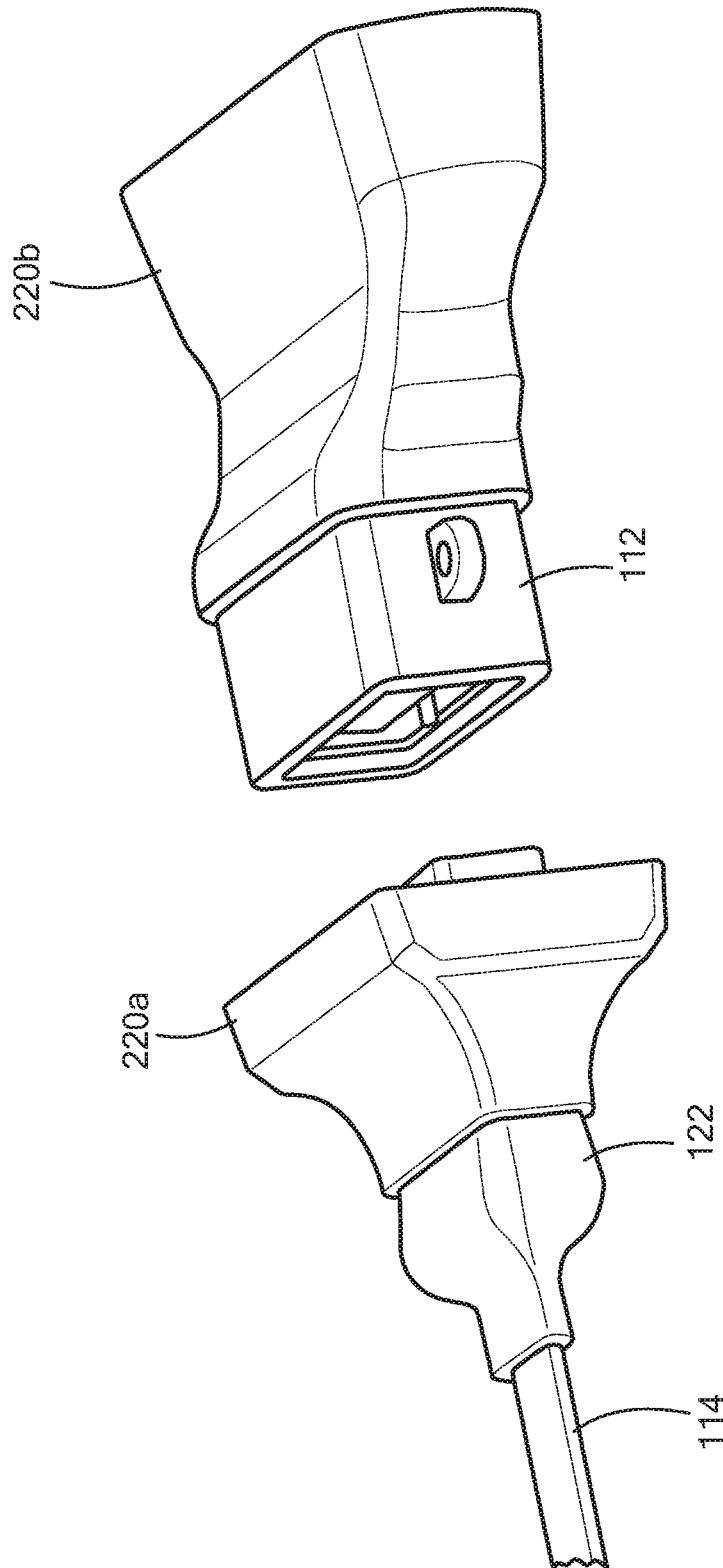


FIG. 7

PHYSICAL SHIELDING FOR ECG ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/984,241, filed on Apr. 25, 2014, and entitled "PHYSICAL SHIELDING FOR ECG ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Electrocardiograph (ECG) lead systems are widely used to obtain biopotential signals containing information indicative of the electrical activity associated with the heart and pulmonary system. To obtain biopotential signals ECG electrodes are applied to the skin of a patient in various locations and coupled to an ECG device, e.g., an "ECG monitor" or "ECG telemetry." Placement of the electrodes is dependent on the information sought by the clinician.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, a physical shielding system includes one or more shield components to protect a first ECG electrical connection and a second ECG electrical connection from objects. The first ECG electrical connection is formed between a connector of an ECG lead set and an adapter and the second ECG electrical connection is formed between the adapter and an ECG monitor.

The previous aspect may include one or more of the following features. The one or more shield components may include a shield around the adapter. The one or more shield components may include a first shield disposed around the connector of the ECG lead set and a second shield disposed around the adapter.

In another aspect, an ECG adapter system includes an ECG adapter. The ECG adapter includes a first interface configured to directly couple with a connector of an ECG lead set to form a first ECG electrical connection, a second interface configured to directly couple with an ECG monitor to form a second ECG electrical connection and a shield disposed around the adapter that includes a first opening configured to allow the connector to couple with the adapter and to shield the first ECG electrical connection from objects and a second opening configured to allow the ECG monitor to couple with the adapter and to shield the second ECG electrical connection from objects.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram of an example of an electrocardiogram (ECG) lead set configuration with a shield component.

FIG. 2 is a diagram of an ECG lead set in the configuration of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a diagram of an adapter in the configuration of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is an angled view of the adapter.

FIG. 5 is an angled view of the shield component of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a diagram of another example of the ECG lead set configuration with two shield components.

FIG. 7 is an angled view of the two shield components of FIG. 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Described herein are techniques to protect electrical connections from dirt, debris, fluids and so forth. In one example, the electrical connections are electrical connections used in electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring. For example, by shielding electrical connections from water, patients may be able to shower or have locations on the patient's body sprayed with water without interfering with ECG monitoring.

Referring to FIGS. 1 to 5, an ECG lead set configuration 100 includes an ECG lead set 114, an adapter 112, and a shield 120. The ECG lead set 114 includes leads 124a-124e and an ECG lead set connector 122. The adapter 112 includes a first interface 132a for coupling with the ECG lead set connector 122 and a second interface 132b for coupling with an ECG monitor (not shown) such as an ECG floor monitor or an ECG telemetry monitor. A first electrical connection is formed between the ECG lead set connector 122 and the first interface 132a of the adapter 112. A second electrical connection is formed between the second interface 132b of the adapter 112 and the ECG monitor. In one example, the connector includes 10 pins and the interface 132a is a socket to receive the 10 pins from the connector 122.

The shield 120 includes a funnel 130a at one end and a funnel 130b at the other end. The shield 120 is made of flexible material such as silicone, for example, and has a snug fit with the adapter 112. For example, the shield 120 which is shaped similar to the adapter 112 is slid on to the adapter 112. The funnel 130a is configured to allow the ECG lead set connector 122 to pass through to connect with the first interface 132a. The funnel 130b is configured to allow a connector (not shown) from the ECG monitor to pass through to connect with the second interface 132a. With this arrangement the first and second electrical connections are shielded, for example, from physical objects such as dirt, debris, fluids and so forth.

Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, an ECG lead set configuration 200 includes the ECG lead set 114, the adapter 112 and shield components 220a, 220b. A first electrical connection is formed between the ECG lead set connector 122 and the adapter 112 and a second electrical connection is formed between the adapter 112 and the ECG monitor as described herein with respect to FIGS. 1 to 5.

The shield 220a, 220b are funnel-shaped. The shields 220a, 220b are made of flexible material such as silicone, for example. The shield 220a has a snug fit with the connector 122 and the shield 220b has a snug fit with the adapter 112. For example, the shield 220a is slid on to the connector 122 and the shield 220b is slid on to the adapter 112.

The funnel 130a is configured to allow the first interface 132a of the adapter 112 to pass through to connect with the connector 122. The funnel 130b is configured to allow a connector (not shown) from the ECG monitor to pass through to connect with the second interface 132a. With this arrangement the first and second electrical connections are shielded, for example, from physical objects such as dirt, debris, fluids and so forth.

Elements of different embodiments described herein may be combined to form other embodiments not specifically set forth above. Various elements, which are described in the context of a single embodiment, may also be provided separately or in any suitable subcombination. Other embodiments not specifically described herein are also within the scope of the following claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. A physical shielding system comprising:

a shield to protect a first ECG electrical connection and a second ECG electrical connection from objects,

wherein the first ECG electrical connection is formed between a connector of an ECG lead set and an adapter,

wherein the second ECG electrical connection is formed between the adapter and an ECG monitor; and

wherein the shield is configured to securely fit to the adapter without being securely fit to either the ECG lead set or the monitor.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises: a first funnel-shaped end to shield the first ECG electrical connection from objects; and

a second funnel-shaped end to shield the second ECG electrical connection from objects.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises silicone.

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4. An ECG adapter system comprising:

an ECG adapter comprising:

a first interface configured to directly couple with a connector of an ECG lead set to form a first ECG electrical connection;

a second interface configured to directly couple with an ECG monitor to form a second ECG electrical connection; and

a shield securely fit to the adapter, without being securely fit to either the ECG lead set or the ECG monitor, to shield the first ECG electrical connection and the second ECG electrical connection from objects.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the shield comprises: a first funnel-shaped end to shield the first ECG electrical connection from objects; and

a second funnel-shaped end to shield the second ECG electrical connection from objects.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the shield comprises silicone.

* * * * *